

Greg Royal Pratt, author of *The City Is Up for Grabs: How Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot Led and Lost a City in Crisis*, will discuss details about the Lightfoot administration on Jan. 16 at the UIC Daley Library 801 S. Morgan, ground floor. A social gathering will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the program will run from at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Midland Authors Program Chair **Mary Wisniewski** will be the interlocutor.

Biblio File

Midland Authors members on BlueSky who would like to be in the Midland Authors Starter Pack can email their handles to **Sharon Woodhouse** (sharon@conspirecreative.com) for inclusion. ... **Patricia Skalka** was recently designated a notable Wisconsin author by the Wisconsin Library Association. This is the first time in the WLA's more than 100-year history that the organization presented a mystery author with an outstanding achievement award for excellence in writing. **Sarah Layden** and **Carol Dunbar** were named honored fiction writers. **David Shih**, a 2024 Midland Authors award winner, was named an honored nonfiction writer. ... **Christopher Lynch** has an essay titled "Weirdo Radio" in the recently published book *Looking Back/Looking Forward: How Chicago has Helped Shape and Build Careers over The Decades* by Neal Samors. ... A recent update from **Claude Walker**: "Today we're moving into our eighth temporary shelter since Helene. We booked an Airbnb to get us through Dec. 31, but the moisture level there was still high so the industrial dehumidifiers were deafening. We're feeling healthy and more or less sane. Our stuff is stored in five different places right now so dis-

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The secrets behind a good nonfiction book proposal



Arnie Bernstein



Dominic Pacyga



Tina Purcell Schwartz



Timothy Mennel



Dan Crissman



Sharon Woodhouse

BY LITERARY LICENSE STAFF

The Midland Authors' Nov. 12 program was a virtual panel on the "basics, considerations and strategies" of crafting nonfiction book proposals.

Offering their perspectives were authors **Dominic Pacyga** and **Arnie Bernstein**, author and agent **Tina Purcell Schwartz**, University of Chicago Press Executive Editor **Timothy Mennel** and University of Wisconsin Press Editor-in-Chief **Dan Crissman**.

Midland Authors Board Member and former publisher **Sharon Woodhouse**, an indie publisher for over 25 years and an Midland Authors Board Member, led the panel discussion.

During the opening minutes, each panelist gave an overview of what they expect, look for and do with nonfiction proposals. Publishing houses have different acceptance protocols, some multilayered. The two authors – Pacyga and Bernstein – discussed their experiences about what elements they make sure to have in their query and proposal letters.

Bernstein, a former Midland Authors board member who specializes in narra-

tive nonfiction, said a sample chapter can be anywhere from 25 to 125 pages, but should "give a real sense, a flavor of what the book is about." He said it takes him about a year to write a solid book proposal.

If an author is writing about something that is familiar, the author needs to explain how the new book will be "different and interesting," Bernstein said.

"What's the angle that you have that hasn't been told before?" he said.

Pacyga, a Midland Authors board member, said he does not write sample chapters, "but I have a clear idea of where I am going."

Mennel and Crissman described what they look for. Schwartz reinforced checking publisher websites to see what each wants because it often differs. She said if her clients don't follow those simple proposal guidelines, they get tossed out before any reading. She also mentioned that she doesn't have an agent and never did for her 10 books.

"Nothing makes you get rejected faster than not following their submission guidelines," Schwartz said.

Mennel said, "If you've done your

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combobulation is rampant. Right after the flood, as I was shoveling soggy cartons of work files and campaign buttons out to the street, I kept thinking of ‘2001,’ when Dave slowly removes HAL’s memory (‘Daisy ... Daisy ... ’). Much of St. Pete Beach still looks bombed-out. Mountains of debris, condemned houses. In fact,



Claude Walker

when Biden did his post-Milton presser, he came to our neighborhood. As the POTUS motorcade went past, I whipped out the Harris yard sign given to us by Cousin Mary Hall. I think Joe waved at us. Then I drove over a nail and blew a tire. The house is pretty much gutted. Not sure if we need to “raze or raise,” or just get the heck outta here. Ngoan’s tenacity in dealing with bureaucrats is really helping as we wrangle with FEMA, insurance, contractors and local government.” ... **Cathleen Maza** writes to say, “I’m happy to share that my short story ‘How Far We’ve Fallen’ was

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“‘ Generally I am looking to be surprised. I am looking to be exited.’ ”

research on the people and the presses and you’ve made a case, you should be able to narrow the universe of presses you want to talk to single digits.”

Mennel said the acceptance process is a little bit different at every university press, and authors should educate themselves on those processes before submitting a proposal.

“Generally, I’m looking to be surprised,” Mennel said. “I am looking to be excited.”

Woodhouse, who now owns Conspire Creative, a book business agency that provides coaching, consulting, project management and marketing support services for authors and publishers said, “In my experience, one of the weakest areas of people’s book proposals are the marketing sections.”

When he became University of Wisconsin Press editor-in-chief, Crissman

“‘ In my experience, one of the weakest areas of people’s book proposals are the marketing sections.’ ”

said, “I was looking for things that didn’t quite fit elsewhere that I could put a stamp on and help cross the finish line.”

At the same time, he has to sell the press’ editorial board on how a proposal book fits the mission of the university and of the press, Crissman said.

Mennel said the University of Chicago Press is the largest domestic university press and publishes about 250 to 260 books a year in all kinds of fields.

Sometimes, the press wants just a proposal, sometimes it wants a whole manuscript and there are “all kinds of variations in between,” he said. “ ... Every press is a little bit different.”

Purcell said, “I am always surprised that even some fiction authors have huge marketing plans. ... For example, say I’m in the organ transplant community and I

speaking all around the country, so that would help me sell my books. Or I speak at four conferences a year – something like that where you can show you are going to get out there without relying on a publisher’s audience.”

Early in his writing career, Pacyga said, a publisher’s representative called to say the company would not publish the book,

“‘ I’m always surprised that even some fiction authors have huge marketing plans.’ ”

even though the readers liked it, because, “Nobody wants to read about Chicago.”

“I spilled a cup of hot tea on myself,” he said. “Fortunately, the Ohio State University Press picked it up and then the University of Chicago put it out in paperback.”

“Sometimes, people come to you because of what you’ve done before,” he added.

Much of the discussion pertained to university presses, although the authors on the panel have published with a range of houses. A Q&A filled the rest of the time and could have filled more.

Afterward, Midland Authors Board Member **Marlene Targ Brill** said, “The panel was excellent, and Sharon did an outstanding job asking panelists questions and keeping things moving.”

Woodhouse said that even seasoned authors contacted her to say they got a tip or two from the presentations, and those who didn’t appreciated the reinforcement

“‘ Sometimes, people come to you because of what you’ve done before.’ ”

of what they already do.

The program was a good lead-in to the February program about demystifying publishing, a second program in the series. Brill and Midland Authors Vice President **Walter Podrazik** will present that virtual program.

Biblio File

Continued from Page 2

accepted to appear in December in Volume 12 of the feminist literary journal 'The Radical Notion.' This is my sixth literary magazine publication." ... An essay by **Dan Dinello** was featured on the website Informed Comment: "The Super-Rich Have a Long History of Backing Fascism and Buying the White House: It Happened Again." ... **Marlene Targ Brill**, along with folk singer Kristin Lems, presented a program about former Midland Authors member **Jane Addams**. ... **Craig Sautter's** short story "Assassins Anonymous," about a circle of famed assassins confessing their crimes in hell, was accepted for publication by a North Carolina literary magazine, Main Street Rag. ... **James Nowlan** wrote "Illinois doesn't have enough college students. How can we improve that?" for the Nov. 15 Chicago Tribune. ... Midland Authors Board Member **David Witter** was profiled in December in the North Shore Weekend. He also helped to usher in the opening of "Plot Twist Used Books" on Dec. 14 through readings from his books, *Amazing Chicago* and *Distilled in Chicago*. The readings focused on iconic Chicago foods and liquors and also included tastings of Cohasset Punch, made famous at the Lander Brothers downtown store for decades. Its age-old recipe was recently revived. ... In a post, **Carol Fisher Saller** writes, "I've waited nearly five years for it, but I can't read it! *The Subversive Copy Editor* is in Chinese. At least it's lovely to look at." ... **Mary T. Wagner's** essay "The Rescue," about adopting a homeless cat at the end of a grueling year of grief and loss, won a



Mary T. Wagner

First Place Award in the National Federation of Press Women's 2024 Communications Contest (blog essay). Also, Wagner was interviewed in November on two BBC stations, Radio Shetland and BBC Scotland, about her book *Of Bairns and Wheelie Bins*. *Bairns* is a cheeky e-book guide to understanding

British detectives on TV for American audiences, and Wagner was a featured guest on the news programs "Good Evening Shetland" (radio) and "The Nine" (television). A paperback version is in the works. ... **Ann Bausum** tells Biblio File, "I'm writing to share some news. Three trade publications have featured *The Bard and the Book* (Peachtree, 2024) in their lists of Best Books for 2024:



Ann Bausum

Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal and Kirkus. PW also featured this nonfiction title for young readers in its annual Holiday Gift Guide. Previously the title, which shares the story behind the making of the First Folio, earned starred reviews from Booklist, PW and School Library Journal. ... **June Sawyers'** article about the historic Kasey's Tavern in Printers Row, "History in a Bottle. Or Two: Everyone Is Family at Kasey's Tavern," appeared in the October issue of NewCity. Several pieces of hers were published in the Third Coast Review, where she is a staff writer – an article on Malort, a review of Andrew Bird's concert at Fourth Presbyterian Church, and a poem in honor of the annual Glögg and Carols at Simon's Tavern in Andersonville. Two of her photographs appeared in the November issue of Also, a local chapbook, "Stones" and "Sea of Hats." Meanwhile, she had several book readings for her latest release, *We Take Care of Our Own: Faith, Class, and Politics in the Art of Bruce Springsteen* (Rutgers University Press) at Born Again Consignment Parlor in Printers Row, 57th Street Books in Hyde Park and Slant of Light Books in Old Town.

Literary Largesse

Dues cover mailings and other organizational expenses, but the Society always needs additional money for programs such as the awards at the annual May book awards banquet. Thanks to **D. Leigh Henson**, who made a recent contribution.

New Members

John B. Romeiser is the co-author of *The East Tennessee Veterans Memorial: A Pictorial History of the Names on the Wall, Their Service, and Their Sacrifice* (Fordham University Press, 2020). He is editor of *Beachhead Don: Reporting The War From the European Theater, 1942-1945* (University of Tennessee Press, 2004) and *Combat Reporter: Don Whitehead's World War II Diary and Memoirs* (Fordham University Press (2006).

He was born in Winnetka, Illinois, and is a retired distinguished professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Tennessee.

He was nominated by **Gerard Plecki**.

Victoria Ann Granacki, a lifetime Chicago resident and historian, is the author of *An Artist Goes to War: Leon Granacki in the South Pacific WWII* (Archway Publishing, 2024).

She also is author of *Chicago's Polish Downtown* (Arcadia Publishing, 2004).

Granacki was awarded an Honorable Mention for the Chicago Writers Association's 2024 Book of the Year Awards in the Indie Nonfiction category.

She recently retired as principal of Granacki Historic Consultants and has written many architectural and community histories for Chicago and its suburbs.

She was nominated by **Donna Urbikas**.

Sarah Aronson has an MFA in writing for children and young adults and published a variety of books for kids and teens. She has been awarded the Prairie Writer Award for contributions to literature and literacy.

Her titles are *Just Like Rube Goldberg: The Incredible True Story of the Man Behind the Machines* (Beach Lane Books 2019); *Keep Calm and Sparkle On!* (Scholastic Press, 2017); *Head Case* (Roaring Brook Press, 2007); *Halfway to Happily Ever After* (Scholastic Press,



Victoria Ann Granacki

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New Members

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2018); *Survival of the Sparkliest!* (Scholastic Press, 2019); *Brand-New Bubbe* (Charlesbridge, 2022); *Beyond Lucky* (Dial Books, 2011); *Believe*



Sarah Aronson

(Carolrhoda Lab, 2013); *The Princess and the Pea: A Pop-up Book* (Little Simon, 2002); *Abzolutely!:*

Battling, Bellowing Bella Abzug (Calkins Creek, 2024), and *The Worst Fairy Godmother Ever!* (Scholastic Press, 2018). When Aronson is not writing or reading (or making great soup or riding her bike along Lake Michigan), she is talking to readers about creativity, writing, social action, and of course, sparkle power.

Sarah works with many aspiring authors at The Highlights Foundation as well as writers.com. You can subscribe to her weekly newsletter on the writing process at: www.saraharonson.com.

She was nominated by **Carol Fisher Saller**.

Cathy Sultan is the author of four non-fiction books: *A Beirut Heart: One Woman's War* (Scarletta Press, 2005); *Israeli and Palestinian Voices: A Dialogue with Both Sides* (Scarletta Press, 2006), *Tragedy in South Lebanon* (Scarletta Press, 2008) and *Gaza Changing the World and Opening Eyes* (Wisdom Editions, 2024). Her works of fiction include *The Syrian* (Calumet Editions, 2014), *Damascus Street* (Calumet Editions, 2018), *An Ambassador to Syria* (Calumet Editions, 2021) and *Omar's Choice* (Calumet Editions, 2024).



Cathy Sultan

Sultan won USA's Best Book of the Year Award in 2006 for her autobiography *A Beirut Heart*; USA's Best Book of the Year Award in 2006 in the category of History/Politics for *Israeli and Palestinian Voices*. *Tragedy in South Lebanon* was

nominated for Best Book of the Year in the Category of Political Science in 2008; *Damascus Street* was a finalist for both the Eric Hoffer Award and the Montaigne Medal Award and *An Ambassador to Syria* won the Independent Press Award for Historical Fiction in 2022.

She was nominated by **Thomas Frisbie** after a recommendation from former Midland Authors member and Midland Authors book award winner B.J. Hollars.

Jean Iversen is the author of four books, including *Local Flavor: Restaurants that Shaped Chicago's Neighborhoods* (Northwestern University Press, 2018) and *BYOB Chicago: Your Guide to Bring-Your-Own-Bottle Restaurants and Wine & Spirits Stores in Chicago* (BYOB Chicago, 2009).

Iversen is an editor with 30 years of experience in the publishing industry, and has published articles on Chicago restaurants and lifestyle topics in *Crain's Chicago Business*, *Time Out Chicago*, the *Daily Herald* and others. She is writing a memoir and several essay collections.

For more about Jean Iversen visit jeani-versen.com or follow her on Instagram @ChicagoIversen.

She was nominated by **Mary Wisniewski**.

Katie Frendreis is the author of the novel *Mourned By Men* (World Castle, 2023).

Frendreis grew up in Chicago and earned a BA in classical civilization at Loyola University Chicago. She has worked in museums, dance studios and funeral homes. She draws, paints, teaches tap dancing and trains as an aerialist.



Katie Frendreis

She was nominated by **Amelia Cotter**. **Westley Heine** is the author of *Busking Blues: Recollections of a Chicago Street Musician and Squatter* (Roadside Press 2022), a poetry collection *Street Corner Spirits* (Roadside Press 2023), a short story collection *12 Chicago Cabbies* (Newington Blue Press, 2021), and a poetry collection *The Trail of Quetzalcoatl* (Scars Publications, 2016).

Heine is a regular contributor to *Beatdom*. He has twice featured at the Green Mill Poetry Slam in Uptown Chicago, and is the host of the poetry open mic at The Gallery Cabaret in Chicago every fourth Saturday. In April of 2025 Roadside Press will release his latest collection of poems and short stories, titled *Cloud Watching in the Inferno*.



Westley Heine

He was nominated by **Michael Corcoran**.

Lucrecia Guerrero is a novelist and short story writer whose works include the short story collection *Chasing Shadows* (Chronicle Books, 2000) and the novels *Tree of Sighs* (Bilingual Press, 2010) and *On The Mad River* (Mouthfeel Press, 2024)



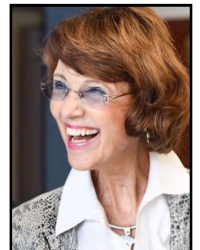
Lucrecia Guerrero

Tree of Sighs won the Christopher Isherwood Fellowship Award and the Premio Aztlan Literary Award.

Guerrero holds an MFA in creative writing from Spalding University.

She was nominated by **Barbara Shoup**. **Stephanie Pace Marshall** is the author of *The Power to Transform: Leadership That Brings Learning and Schooling to Life* (Jossey-Bass, 2006) and a contributor of a chapter to *Work is Love Made Visible: A Collection of Essays About the Power of Finding Your Purpose* (Wiley Press, 2018).

Marshall is president emerita of the Illinois Math & Science Academy and chancellor emerita of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. She has honorary degrees from Dominican University, Aurora University, North Central University and Illinois Wesleyan University. She holds a Ph.D. from Loyola University and an M.A. degree from the University of Chicago.

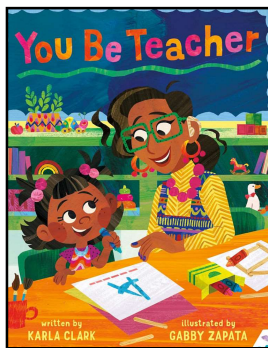
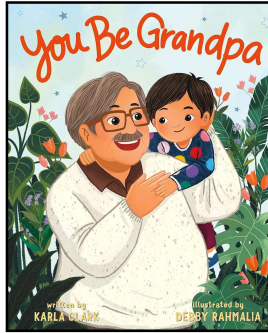


Stephanie Pace Marshall

She was nominated by **Carla Knorowski**.



Literary Latest



FOURTH AND FIFTH PICTURE BOOKS

Karla Clark writes to say, “My fourth picture book in the YOU BE series – *You Be Grandpa* (Macmillan) – was released in May. The fifth book in the series – *You Be Teacher* – will release on May 6, 2025. I love my agent and the traditional



Karla Clark

publishing path, but as we all know, it’s soooo slow! With the blessing of my agent, I will launch two self-published books by the end of 2024. “When my editor shopped my picture book story *The Phony Baloney of Greta Maloney* last year, we received so much great feedback from editors but no one acquired it. My agent believed in this story and encouraged me to self-publish. So I did, but WOW, what a learning curve! As I researched the self-publishing path to produce a quality picture book – hire an editor, illustrator,

book designer, off-set printer, 3PL warehouse; obtain book identifiers: ISBN, barcode, LCCN; submit for a Kirkus review; create a strategic book launch/marketing plan and navigate the Amazon Advantage platform – I realized that my notes might be helpful to other picture book authors. So, I wrote another book titled *The Picture Book Author’s Helper: Your Planner, Tracker & Guide*. This book is for both traditional and self-published authors. It’s packed with tips and compares the two publishing paths. It also contains 200 pages of planners, trackers, logs and worksheets to help authors keep everything book-related in one place.

“I started my own LLC – Main Course Books – under which I will self-publish. I will continue to work with my agent to traditionally publish, but self-publishing will allow me to supplement my portfolio.

“Self-publishing still suffers from an inferiority complex, but I believe you can create, produce and market a self-published book like a pro! Recently, I posted the covers of my self-published *Phony Baloney* book and my traditionally published *You Be Teacher* in a writer’s Facebook group and asked members to guess which book was self-published. I was so pleased to find that most people couldn’t tell the difference!

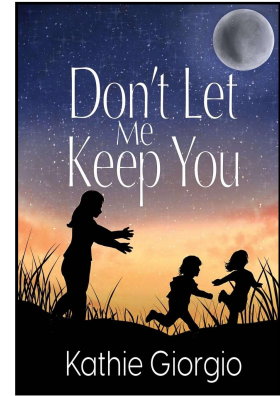
“Which path do I prefer? Traditional – hands down! So much less work. But I did have a lot of fun with my self-publishing adventure. We will see how the books do!

“I also wanted to tackle the issue of STEM schooling for girls. STEM is fine, but there should be schooling for all types of personalities and career types, so that ALL girls can do what they choose to do. I’ve known several women who were brilliant in math and science who felt ‘corralled’ to go into those types of fields, or else, they were told, they’d be letting their gender down.

EIGHTH NOVEL

Kathie Giorgio’s eighth novel is *Don’t Let Me Keep You* (Black Rose Writing (Oct. 2, 2024).

Giorgio tells Literary Latest, “The day my 40-year old son called me to ask if I could drive him to and from his first



colonoscopy was the day I knew my parenting phase was definitely in a new place. My ‘kids’ were now 40, 38, 37 and 23. No one really needed me anymore. But ... yes, they did. This phase of parenting means that your kids are still the center of your universe – you will still drop everything, cancel everything, to get to

them when they need help. But you are no longer the center of their universe.



Kathie Giorgio

“*Don’t Let Me Keep You* is the result of that, as main character Hildy chooses to be a full-time mother, and also to try not to overtly influence her children to accomplish things that she chooses, instead of what they choose.

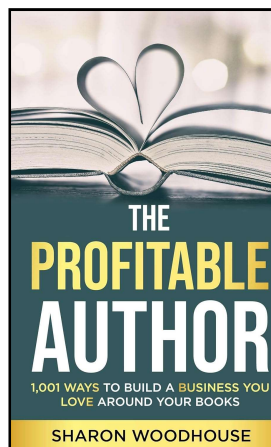
“To me, equality is equality in all things. Girls – and boys – should be free to choose their life paths, not feel that

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they have to choose certain things because of their gender, or because their gender is not equally represented in it. And so Hildy, a math and science genius, was born in my head.”



PARTLY A TRIBUTE

Sharon Woodhouse’s next book is *The Profitable Author: 1,001 Ways to Build a Business You Love Around Your Books* (Everything Goes Media, LLC, Jan. 24, 2025)

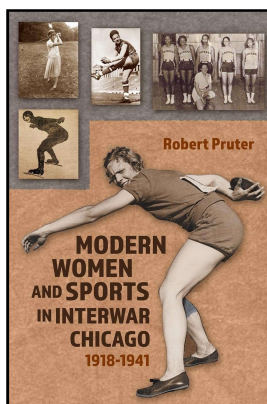


Sharon Woodhouse

Woodhouse tells Literary Latest, “It is in part a tribute to the 800-member Pub Forum email list from the mid-1990s and John Kremer’s epic book, *1,001 Ways to Market Your Books*. They were both critical to my education as a young book publisher and provided foundational ways of thinking about creative book marketing, the traditional publishing industry and the indie publishing world that was blossoming with the advent of desktop publishing that allowed me to build businesses and enjoy a three-decade career around one of my favorite things ... books. Starting in the pandemic, I began writing articles for Medium, dumping everything I knew about publishing into over 300 articles. At some point I realized that I had developed a specialty and a particular perspective over the years. That is, I am a fierce advocate

and cheerleader for author businesses and author entrepreneurship and authors learning business skills and mindsets.

“It’s because in my observations and experience publishing, coaching and consulting with hundreds of authors and teaching tens of thousands more, I’ve come to realize that entrepreneurship is not just a good way for authors to approach their career and author goals. From what I’ve seen it’s the only way for 99% of authors to begin to meet their author expectations and really enjoy their author lives and a range of good things writers connect with authorship, including profit.”



EXTRAORDINARY ATHLETES

Modern Women and Sports in Interwar Chicago: 1918-1941 (Syracuse University Press, Jan. 17, 2025) is

Robert Pruter’s latest book.

Pruter writes to say, “*Modern Women and Sports in Interwar Chicago, 1918-1941* came about from the work I did in my previous book, *The Rise of High School Sports and the Search for Control, 1889-1930* (2013). That project brought me into the world of high school-age female athletes of the 1920s and 1930s, some who became national and Olympic champions, even while still in secondary school. Three notable sport historians in their most significant books (from the ’70s-’80s era) had posited that the major cities in America served as incubators of modern sports and modern athletes. They were **Steven A. Riess** who studied sport development in Chicago and New York City, **Gerald R. Gems**, who concentrated on Chicago, and **Stephen Hardy**, who examined the development and growth of sports in Boston.

“In none of their studies was the role of

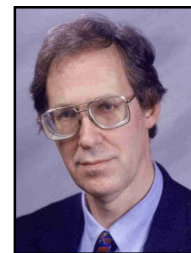
women as a factor in such sport development considered or if discussed, barely so. Within a couple of decades, however, all three historians had recognized that if they had written their books today, the role of women as a factor would have been written up as significant to modernization.

“The advancement of women in sporting culture in the 1920s and 1930s was in itself part of modernization. In any case, the role of Chicago women in modernity and sport culture had been passed by our best sport historians.

“Hence, in *Modern Women and Sports*, I sought to recover the lost history of the modern sporting women of Chicago, whose participation, organization and achievements in developing and winning at sports contributed to the growth and modernization of Chicago.

“Some of the “modern women” who are highlighted in the book are Sybil Bauer and Ethel Lackie, both swimming gold medal winners in the 1924 Olympic Games; Lois Littlejohn, who grew up dirt poor and was the first non-Norwegian woman speed skater from Chicago to win a national championship, in 1926; Betty Robinson, who was the first Olympic gold medal winner in women’s track and field, in 1928; Edith Cummings, the socialite golfer who won the woman’s national championship in 1923, was the first woman on the cover of *Time*, and who inspired F. Scott Fitzgerald; track star Tidy Pickett, the first African American woman to compete in the Olympic Games, in 1936; and the nationally recognized woman’s softball pitcher, Dorothy “Boots” Kluppig, who helped win many local championships for her team and to participate in a number of national championships (taking second in 1938).

“There are many other notables in this account, which is also an account of the thousands upon thousands of girls and women who participated in the various sports that swept Chicago between World War I and World War II and helped to make Chicago the modern city it is today.”



Robert Pruter

Rules for the 2025 book awards

The Midland Authors is now accepting submissions for its annual literary awards, which will honor books by Midwestern authors published in 2024.

Please read the following rules carefully before submitting.

These rules are also posted on our website at midlandauthors.org/how-to-submit/ (Please note that we are using a new domain, midlandauthors.org, at this time rather than our previous .com website.)

2025 Competition Rules (for Books Published in 2024)

The Midland Authors Awards recognize book writing excellence by Midwestern authors. Three judges on each committee will select one winner that is best in that category. Category winners receive \$750 and a recognition award. Judges may also deem up to three honorees as worthy of recognition. Each honoree will receive a commemorative award. All honors will be given out at the awards banquet in May. Follow the directions below to submit a book and pay the entry fee.

To enter this year's competition, fill out the online entry form for each nominated book. A printed entry form must also accompany each book sent to each of the three judges in its category, and the entry form must also be mailed to Midland Authors President **Gerry Plecki**, at the address listed for him in the judge's category.

Note: If your entry is in the Adult Nonfiction category, you will not need to send him an extra form – the entry form you mail him with your book will suffice. This totals four printed forms per title (one to each of the three judges, and one to Gerry Plecki, competition coordinator) in addition to the online form which you will submit electronically. A copy of your book (with the required entry form) must be sent to each judge in your category. Entry forms must specify payment information. Books unaccompanied by completed entry forms will not be considered. Each book entry must have a 2024 publication date that corresponds with its copyright date.

A book may be nominated by its author or publisher. The author must either reside in, be born in or have lived in one of the 12 Midland states the Midland

Authors represents: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

If the author lives outside these states, please indicate any connection to the Midwest on the "comments" section of the entry form.

Each submission requires an entry fee of \$35, \$30 for members. The online form allows payment by PayPal or credit card. To pay by a mail service, send a check and a printed copy of the entry form to Gerry Plecki, SMA President, 33 King Henry Road SE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065.

If you pay by check or money order, be sure to write the author's name on the face of the check or money order so we can confirm the paid entry. A copy of the entry form should also accompany each book that you mail to each of the three judges in your category. A copy of the submission form is on Page 8.

We do not accept e-books; only print editions will be judged. Books by deceased authors are eligible, providing that at least one of the authors meets the residency protocol and other requirements.

A book may be entered in only one category, not several categories.

Submissions must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2025. We urge early submissions. Send entries to the appropriate judges under your category of Contest Judges listed below.

Make sure your book entry goes to judges in the proper category. (For example, all children's books go to children's categories, rather than Poetry or Biography and Memoir, which are for adult submissions only.) Books submitted to improper categories will be disqualified.

Any judge who has a conflict of interest with a submission will be recused from discussion of that entry. For comments, questions, or to confirm an entry has reached the judges, contact Gerry Plecki at gplecki@travelbrokers.com

SEND ONE COPY OF THE BOOK AND ONE ENTRY FORM TO EACH OF THE THREE JUDGES IN THE BOOK'S CATEGORY AND ONE ENTRY FORM TO THE COMPETITION COORDINATOR

Judges

Children's Reading Round Table Award for Children's Nonfiction

Jingmai O'Connor, 600 S Dearborn Apt. 904, Chicago IL 60605

Carrie Pearson, 3204 Island Beach Rd, Marquette, MI 49855.

Laurie Lawlor, 2103 Noyes, Evanston, Illinois 60201

Children's Fiction

Sandra Renner, 420 Summit Ave., Suite 8, St. Paul, MN 55102

Laura Hirshfield, 3318 Noyes Street, Evanston, IL 60201

W. Nikola-Lisa, 4908 N. Paulina Street, Chicago, IL 60640-3419

History

Joseph Gustaitis, 1824 West Erie St., Chicago, IL 60622

Greg Borzo, 520 S. State St, Apt. 1009, Chicago, IL 60605

David Witter, 4417 N. La Porte, Chicago IL 60630

Richard Frisbie Award for Adult Nonfiction

Gerry Plecki, 33 King Henry Rd. SE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Chris Lynch, 6135 N. Campbell Ave, #1, Chicago, IL 60659

Sharon Woodhouse, 3150 N Lake Shore Dr. #10F, Chicago, IL 60657

Biography/Memoir

Bob Remer, 5840 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60660

Marlene Targ Brill, 314 Lawndale, Wilmette, IL 60091

David Shih, 426 Gilbert Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Poetry

Emilio Degrazia, 211 W. Wabasha St. Winona, MN 55987

Brenda Cardenas, 2905 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207

Elton Glaser, 412 S. Rose Blvd., Akron, OH 44320

Adult Fiction

Patricia Skalka, 2367 N Wahl Ave, #3, Milwaukee, WI 53211

Richard Reeder, 2300 Sherman Avenue, 5D, Evanston, IL 60201

Jon Volkmer, 884 Jonathan Drive, Telford, PA 18969

Awards Entry Form

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 31, 2025 | Print four copies of this form and send one copy with your payment. One copy should also go with each of the books that go to the three judges in your entry's category. Please type or print clearly. Note: We need author contact information to communicate with winner; providing only editor's contact information will disqualify the book.

Name of book: _____

Publisher: _____

Publication date: (if publication date differs from copyright date, please explain in "Comments" section below.)

Author: _____

Author's address: (must be author's info) _____

Author's email address: (must be author's actual email address) _____

Category of entry (check one). Entries improperly categorized will be disqualified:

ADULT FICTION

BIOGRAPHY and MEMOIR: (Adult)

ADULT NONFICTION

CHILDREN'S FICTION

POETRY (Adult)

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

HISTORY

I nominate the above work for a Society of Midland Authors Award.

(Authors or publishers may nominate works)

Your name: _____

Signature: _____

Company and Business title: _____

Telephone and email address: _____

Address: _____

If the author is not currently a resident of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota or Wisconsin, please explain the author's connection to this region: _____

Comments: _____

